

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1038

By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Division of Mental Retardation Services and Greene Valley Developmental Center for their meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is always pleased to specially commend and recognize all State government departments, divisions, and institutions for exceptional and superior service to the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) is part of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, responsible for providing services and support to Tennesseans with mental retardation; and

WHEREAS, DMRS believes that Tennesseans with mental retardation, when provided with opportunity and support, can be a part of the community in which they live, and that they have a right to healthy, secure, and meaningful lives surrounded by family and friends; and

WHEREAS, DMRS embodies professionalism, integrity, and honesty in achieving and maintaining the credibility that is required to fulfill its responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Greene Valley Developmental Center in Greeneville currently employs 1,339 staff and serves 286 residents; and

WHEREAS, Greene Valley Developmental Center has operated under a federal lawsuit for the past ten years, faced with stringent requirements dictated by the lawsuit's settlement; it was monitored and graded closely by the United States Department of Justice and an expert team of mental retardation consultants; and

WHEREAS, since the filing of the lawsuit, DMRS and Greene Valley Developmental Center have worked to bring the Center into compliance, instituting new practices, programs, and approaches to service; and

WHEREAS, the Greene Valley Developmental staff has demonstrated extraordinary dedication, commitment, and professionalism in fulfilling their responsibilities and providing for their clients; and

WHEREAS, Greene Valley Developmental Center received accreditation from The Council on Quality and Leadership, a nationally recognized and highly prestigious organization which evaluates services provided to persons with disabilities and consults with groups on positive systems changes; and

WHEREAS, Green Valley Developmental Center is not only in compliance with the lawsuit, but has exceeded the standards set by the government and has attained a system of excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the Division of Mental Retardation Services and Green Valley Developmental Center in Greeneville for excellent service to one of Tennessee's most vulnerable populations, people with mental retardation, and for achieving compliance and gaining dismissal from the lawsuit *People First of Tennessee, et al., v. Clover Bottom Developmental Center, et al.* as it is related to institutional conditions at the Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish them well in future service to Tennesseans with mental retardation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.